



CHILDREN'S NEWSPAPER

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EVERY TUESDAY

FOUNDED BY ARTHUR MEE

PRICE THREEPENCE

ON THE EDGE OF CIVILISATION

Life Among the Little-Known Indians of the Argentine

WHEN she inquired at the Argentine Consulate in London ten years ago about the Indian tribes of the Argentine, Mrs Winifred Revill was told there were none; and to find her answer she and her husband went to live in the loneliest forest regions on the border of the Argentine and Bolivia known as Gran Chaco. They are now home to tell their tale.

A loaded lorry took these adventurous missionaries from Tartagal, the railhead, into the forest, and their first night was spent in a rough adobe hut, with an earthen floor and no windows. All round the hut were rows of brown-faced Indians, clothed in long red or blue skirts, their faces shorn of eyebrows and eyelashes, and marked with blue pencil and red paint.

For centuries the Gran Chaco Indians have lived in the lower foothills of the great Southern Andes ranges, eking out a primitive living from the hard soil. Their homes are small, beehive-shaped huts, with a small hole for a door. Inside the huts there is no furniture of any kind—nothing except a few skins, water pots, and string bags; outside each door is a fire, usually with a smoke-blackened tin of vegetables or fish boiling on the coals.

River and Forest

In her book (Chaco Chapters, Hodder and Stoughton, 12s 6d) Mrs Revill tells how, from the simple mud hut which she made her home with her two children, she looked across the Pilcomayo River into Bolivia, where the Indians went to cut the long grasses from which to make their houses. Known as "Green Hell," the forest across the river was a mixture of small, gnarled trees covered with

beautiful grey-green lichen. What made life bearable in this hot, flat landscape was the river, usually flowing quietly between its banks, but in the flood season tearing down the bank in a mad rush.

The deadly cruz snake was the most dangerous of the reptiles which crept along the sandy trackways. One morning a huge fat snake was found curled up beneath her baby's play-pen. Lizards, butterflies, bats, and a host of birds, including the humming-bird, teem in this isolated forest home of the Indians.

Dressing-Up

On festive occasions the Indian young men of the Chaco district shave their eyebrows to a thin line, pluck their eyelashes, cover their cheeks with bright red paint, and decorate them with weird patterns of lines and dots of purple paint. From their ears hang long bead ornaments, and most of them carry tasselled vanity bags of woven wool decorated with beads. The women are wrapped in tightly-fitting tubes of cloth with fishbones as safety-pins.

Food is shared amongst these Indians very freely. A man with a fair-sized catch of fish will expect to give away a large number of them. They seem to have few possessions, or stores against lean times. Sitting in

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A PRICKLY HARVEST



This Chinese woman is helping to gather the pineapple crop on a plantation in Malaya. Before the war 90 per cent of the canned pineapple sold in Britain came from Malaya, and the country is trying to build up this trade again.

SCALING THE HEIGHTS



With a 71-year-old expert to guide them, the two young climbers tackle a stiff ascent in Snowdonia.

Wild Life at War

IN the Lake Frome area of South Australia a struggle for survival has been going on between the wild dingo dogs, the foxes, and the rabbits. The rapidly-breeding rabbits have been the losers in this struggle, both dingoes and foxes feeding on them to such an extent that they have become scarcer. The dingoes, too, have taken to killing the foxes.

The dingo is an ancient inhabitant of Australia and the foxes and rabbits are newcomers, like the white men who introduced them. The first rabbits, taken there by some settler in the early part of the last century, multiplied amazingly and inflicted immense damage on the pasturelands. Great sums of money and many men have been employed in vain

in trying to exterminate them.

In the Lake Frome area the foxes and dingoes have been helping to solve the problem, but the farmers watch the struggle with grave misgivings. For if the dingoes kill off the foxes they may turn on the young cattle.

There is a Government reward of 12s 6d for each dingo killed, and to this farmers are adding 7s 6d on their own account. Some farmers put up dingo-proof fencing, but inside this the rabbits multiply—how happy could the farmer be with neither!

The dingo—which is as wary as a fox—is one of the few non-marsupial wild animals in Australia. It is believed to have been introduced from the north as a domestic dog by the distant ancestors of the Aborigines, and to have become a wild dog.

ON THE EDGE OF CIVILISATION

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the shade for hours at a time, spinning string, eating simple food, the Chaco Indian is a care-free, happy dweller on the edge of civilisation. His story reaches back into the ancient and splendid past of the great Indian dynasties of the South American continent; but this last remnant of a great people are content to live out their life in the sun, free from envy of other men and only wishing to be left alone.

When he is ill the Indian usually resorts to the witch doctor, who stretches the patient on the floor and covers him completely in a blanket. The witch doctor's instruments are a

bit of rattle-snake's tail, or a gourd in which the seeds can rattle when shaken. Sometimes he gives a little toot on a whistle, or tries to suck out a patient's pain by applying a tube to his body. His chief asset is his ability to keep up loud and prolonged booings to drive away the evil spirit.

Mrs Revill's two children have grown up in this far-away corner of South America, enjoying the sun and the delights of an Indian village. Chickens, butterflies, fireflies, goats, pigs, donkeys, horses—all are in the picture; and in spring, bathing in the Pilcomayo is almost as good as from a sandy English beach.

Is London Bigger Than New York?

NEW YORK is this summer celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment in 1898 of "Greater New York," with many festivities. In a recent parade 50,000 persons took part and about a million more watched the show. The Mayor arrived at the reviewing stand in a coach drawn by four horses.

Greater New York, now known as New York City, was created by the consolidation of Manhattan (the island on which old New York city grew); Bronx (north of Manhattan); Brooklyn and Queen's Borough (both on Long Island opposite Manhattan); and Richmond Borough on Staten Island. The area of the "City of Five Boroughs" is about 321 square miles, and it has a waterfront of 578 miles. Its present population is estimated at 8,005,000.

London's Millions

The Administrative County of London has an area of 116 square miles and a population of over 4,400,000; but "Greater London," comprising the Metropolitan and City Police Districts, has an area of 692 square miles and a population of over 8,204,000.

This would make Greater London bigger than Greater New York; but it has to be remembered that just across the Hudson River from New York is Jersey City, with the towns of Newark, Elizabeth, and other industrial and suburban districts not far away. These places are not connected administratively with New York as they belong to another state, New Jersey; but, considered as part of the vast built-up area of which Manhattan is more or less the centre, then the whole great hive of busy human life with its estimated population of over 13,500,000 is undoubtedly bigger than London.

SAND FOR THE BEACH

VISITORS to Morecambe this summer may find that a large area of the foreshore, previously shingle, is covered with sand.

There has always been plenty of sand at Morecambe, but mostly in the wrong place. Banks of sand are uncovered at low tide in the bay, but the foreshore, swept by lateral tides, has presented much shingle. Now an effort is being made to distribute the sand by a method that has been very successful at Durban, in South Africa, and at Blankenberghe, in Belgium.

The sand is pumped from a sandbank through 600 yards of piping at the rate of 500 tons an hour, and is retained on the shore by willow fences. When work is completed it is expected that the 75 yards of beach down to low-water mark will be covered by a shelving bank of sand. It is hoped that as the sand settles down it will resist the heavy seas of winter.

CITIZEN OR SUBJECT? US Republican Candidate

At least every Empire day, and certainly as often as we travel abroad, we are reminded of our honoured status as "British subjects." To be loyal subjects of the King is as natural to us as eating food and wearing clothes. But something happened two years ago which, though many people then overlooked it, now presents a problem to all British subjects.

Canada in 1946 passed the Canadian Citizenship Act. This laid down that all Canadian citizens were British subjects and all persons who were British subjects by the law of any other part of the Commonwealth should be recognised as British subjects in Canada.

Until then a "common code" had been followed. No member of the British family of nations could depart from the code without telling the other members; and the other members agreed in 1947 that they, too, should pass similar laws to the Canadian Act.

Thus there appeared in the House of Lords the other day the British Nationality Bill, which concerns the peoples of the United Kingdom and her colonies, but not, of course, of the Dominions. At first glance, because all our brothers and sisters overseas had agreed, it seemed a plain case of Westminster falling into line with Canada.

But on the very first clause some peers objected to the inference that the phrase "British subject" is to take second place to "British citizen." That, they said, would not do at all. They defeated the Government twice—that is, they quashed this clause and also the second clause, which says that a citizen of Eire shall remain a British subject under

certain conditions if he notifies the Home Secretary.

As a rule, uncontroversial Bills go first to the Lords. It is most unusual for their lordships virtually to "kill" any Bill before the Commons have discussed it.

Technically, of course, the "defeats" are merely reminders to the Commons, when they consider this Bill, to look at the constitutional effects of the clauses very carefully, one argument against them being that "citizen" has for some people a republican flavour and may tend to weaken our Empire ties.

The Government's counter-argument is that the Bill will strengthen those ties because Empire experts concerned last year approved the change after amicable discussions. The official case is best summed up in this explanation:

"The new scheme under which citizenship of a Commonwealth country becomes the gateway to British nationality results in the creation of a common citizenship for the people of the United Kingdom and Colonies alike. The Bill provides that the United Kingdom and the Colonies shall be for citizenship purposes one community."

Here is a question to which all young Britons should devote their most earnest thoughts, for this Bill appears to mark a big change in Empire history.

The Nylon Knitter

THE man who in 1589 invented the knitting-frame for the production of stockings would have been amazed at the latest machine manufactured for this purpose. It has just left a Nottingham factory.

To replace hand knitters the Revd William Lee of Calverton, Notts, evolved a complicated piece of machinery to make a coarse woollen stocking. Later he made a much finer-gauge frame on which to knit silk hose. Now, over 350 years later, a giant machine for making nylon stockings has over 100,000 moving parts and produces just over 18 pairs of stockings every hour. The machine, first of its kind to come from the Nottingham factory, is so sensitive that it is affected by a five per cent fall in temperature; it has required five

months running-in before it was ready for work, but by using a new method this time may be reduced to two months for further machines.

When the machine, which is 55 feet long, was moved by road to Loughborough recently it had to go in two sections, each weighing eight tons. Two articulated Scammell trucks were used, and to secure as clear a road as possible the journey was begun at five o'clock one Sunday morning. At Loughborough the road in front of the factory was closed for five hours while the machine was unloaded.

Many more such machines will come from the Nottingham factory, for 400 men are now working to produce two each week, and thus will help to speed up the supply of nylons.

A HELPING HAND FOR MILLIONS

ALL who have contributed to the Lord Mayor of London's Appeal Fund for children will be interested to know how part of this money is being spent.

On April 15 in 12 European countries, 3,455,000 children and 358,000 mothers were being provided with a supplementary diet of 300 calories by the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund in Europe; and since April the number is believed to have increased to about four million. The foodstuffs provided—milk; fats, fish, meat—varied according to the local shortages, and were distributed through schools, hospitals, or child welfare centres in Albania, Austria, Bulgaria, Finland,

France, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Poland, Rumania, Czechoslovakia, and Yugoslavia.

This was revealed recently by Mr Alfred Davidson, the American Director of the Fund, which has carried out this grand work with a small staff. In no country had the Fund more than six persons at work who were not of that country's nationality.

This summer 50 million European children are to be examined for tuberculosis, and 15 million are to be vaccinated against it. Associated with this anti-TB effort are the World Health Organisation and the Danish Red Cross, which is drawing on the medical skill and resources of all Scandinavia.

WILL MR DEWEY BE PRESIDENT?

ONE of the two great political parties of America, the Republican Party, has chosen Thomas Edmund Dewey, Governor of New York State, as its candidate for the election of a new President of the United States which takes place on November 2 this year.

It seems very likely that he will then be elected President by the American people.

Governor Dewey is 46 years old and a lawyer. He was educated at the University of Michigan and Columbia University, New York. He is chiefly famous for the courageous struggle he waged against the racketeers and criminals of New York City before the war. He began that campaign in 1931, and, although his life was often in danger from the vengeful evil-doers, he relentlessly fought them for several years.

In 1944 he was the Republican candidate in the Presidential election against Franklin D. Roosevelt, who was a Democrat, and in that election Dewey obtained 22,000,000 votes against Roosevelt's 26,500,000. In 1942 Dewey was elected Governor of New York State.

He has declared that he believes in Aid to Europe if it is administered in a business-like way. He favours Western Union.

Queen-To-Be



Princess Juliana, who will become Queen of the Netherlands when her mother abdicates on September 6, seen in a carefree moment.

A CURIOUS STRIKE

A STRIKE with a difference took place in Paris the other day, when French examiners refused to mark the papers for the matriculation exam and 150,000 students were left in ignorance of whether they had passed or not.

Apparently most of the students did not like being kept in suspense; but we all know boys and girls whom such a situation would not trouble in the least!

Signatures For Export

DON BRADMAN, the Australian Cricket Captain, made a great contribution towards Britain's export drive when he autographed 3500 bats worth between £15,000 and £20,000, all for export. Bradman started work at 9.30 at a sports-goods factory and, signing with an ordinary fountain pen, autographed 450 bats every hour.

WORLD NEWS REEL

RECORD CROP. The recent Australian wheat crop has been estimated at 228 million bushels, beating the previous record crop by 14 million bushels. The new crop was produced from an area of just under 14 million acres, an average yield of over 15 bushels to the acre.

An Ordinance setting up a Legislative Assembly and an Executive Council for the Sudan was promulgated recently.

Floods near Grenoble in France not long ago created a lake ten miles long and three miles wide.

Margarine and cooking fat have been taken off the ration in Belgium, where the only rationed foods now are bread, sugar, and imported butter.

RING AS YOU RIDE. A 60-watt motor-car telephone, which can establish telephonic communication over 60 miles, was demonstrated at a recent Paris automobile competition.

Olives have been grown in New Zealand for the first time on record. The olives, from experimental plots in the sunny Hawke's Bay district, may be the first fruits of a valuable olive-oil industry.

HOME NEWS REEL

TOYS FROM SWEDEN. Attractive toys given by Sweden to the British Save the Children Fund are being distributed by the Fund to its junior clubs, of which there are six in London and one each at Barry Dock, Cardiff, and Plymouth.

The bells of St Mary's, Southampton, which are believed to have inspired the popular song, were recently rung for the first time since November 1940.

The certificate of the National Society for the Protection of Life from Fire has been awarded to Maureen Stevens, aged 14, of Creek Street, Battersea, for saving six-year-old Rosemary Crean.

On July 12 the last 5000 German prisoners-of-war in Britain are due to go home.

SAVED PAPER. In March and April 53,343 tons of waste paper were collected, compared with 42,414 tons in January and February.

For their great courage and prompt action in saving the lives of two of the passengers of an air liner which crashed and caught fire at London Airport last March, Harold James Bending of Heston, Middlesex, and Angus Brown, of West Kensington, have been awarded the George Medal.

A meeting in Port Elizabeth, South Africa, was held up while an owl, which had perched in a corner of the hall, was caught and thrown out.

THANK YOU, FIJI! The British Government have decided to write off the sum of £2,000,000 owed by Fiji for war defence expenditure in recognition of the help given by Fiji during the war.

At Antwerp, not long ago, huge crowds watched the unveiling of the memorial to the British Anti-Aircraft batteries and R A F squadrons who defended the city during the V-weapon bombardment and liberated the River Scheldt.

WAR'S CAUSES. At Urresco in Paris a meeting of international specialists in the fields of sociology, history, psychology, and economics has been inquiring into the nature of the tensions leading to aggressive nationalism.

During his visit to London the Prime Minister of Australia, Mr Chifley, is expected to discuss with the British Government, among other matters, migration, and the effects of Western European union and the Marshall Plan upon trade within the British Commonwealth.

BETTER DRIVE. When Colorado beetles were found at Winkfield, Windsor Forest, recently, all potato plants within three miles were sprayed. A Colorado beetle which flew into a car near Liverpool was taken four miles to Huyton, Lancs, and there handed over to the police.

To give a "stimulating change of environment" an exchange of University professors and lecturers within the British Empire is being arranged.

Mr Harold Nicolson has been appointed by the King to write an official biography and history of the reign of George V.

New coins to be issued will not bear the inscription "Ind. Imp." as the words "Indiæ Imperator" (Emperor of India) have been dropped from the King's title.

BRIGHTER. Exports from the United Kingdom in May were £129,900,000, which was £3,500,000 higher than in April, and £12,000,000 above the average for the first quarter. Imports were £176,000,000, which was £8,900,000 lower than in April.

Wireless licences in force at the end of May in Great Britain and Northern Ireland numbered about 11,235,700, including 52,500 television licences.

YOUTH NEWS REEL

BY AIR. Three Dakota aircraft were needed to take 63 senior Scouts and their camping equipment to the Norwegian National Scout Camp being held at Mandal, in Southern Norway. This is the first time a British Scout contingent has travelled by air to a Scout function abroad.

During the Olympic Games Sailing Events in Torbay in August, each of the foreign competing teams will have Scouts attached as personal guides. Scouts will also act as messengers at the Games Headquarters in Torquay.

The age for joining the Air Training Corps has been lowered from 15 to 14. The corps now has 50,000 members.

Patrol Leader Gilbert Onion, of the 1st Haverhill Troop, Sudbury, Suffolk, has been awarded the Cornwell Scout Badge for his courage and endurance under great suffering.

GESTURE. Boys of the 12th West Kent Company, Boys' Brigade, collected about 700 jam jars, and with the money received for them bought a football for a German Christian youth group at Wuppertal, in the Ruhr.

The strength of the Sea Cadet Corps is now about 28,000. Canada has invited Sea Cadets from Britain, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, and Rhodesia to join Canadian Sea Cadets next summer in the first Empire Sea Cadet camp.

OPENING UP THE AMAZON

Six nations of South America—Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Venezuela—together with Holland, France, and Italy, have agreed to set up an International Institute of the Hylean Amazon.

The Hylean Amazon, already described in the CN, is the vast region of jungle spread over the basin of the River Amazon, and about 2,800,000 square miles in extent—nearly as big as Australia—yet it is inhabited by only some 200,000 Indians and the people of a few settlements along the river banks.

The Institute will encourage and carry out scientific studies in the Hylean Amazon area in order to provide a greater knowledge of Tropical Nature and so help the Governments concerned in the practical development of the region.

Representatives of the USA and Britain have expressed great interest in this project, which has been promoted by Unesco.

USA STUDENTS TRAVEL ABROAD

DURING the next few months about 10,000 American students are to leave the US for foreign countries under the student exchange programme. Of 600 who sailed recently 235 went to study in Norway, 240 went to France, and 125 to Britain.

Last year about 250 British and American teachers temporarily exchanged posts.

What Am I-Going to Be?

A SERIES of pamphlets which will be of great help to young people considering the question of "What shall I do when I leave school?" has been prepared for the Ministry of Labour, and is being issued by the Youth Employment Service.

The series is called "Choice of Careers," and each pamphlet describes the main features and practices of an industry, profession, or service, how one enters and trains for the career described, what the hours of work are, the facilities for further education, and the prospects before the young worker.

The first of these pamphlets, dealing with the Civil Service, has already been published and is obtainable, price 6d, from the Stationery Office or from any bookseller. The next pamphlet is to be on the building industry.



Dancing on the Green

These Polish girls from the displaced persons' camp at Anglesey are rehearsing an axe dance as performed in the highlands of their native country.

House Repairs on Mont Blanc

A SHELTER hut, first built in 1890 by M. Vallot on the north-west ridge of Mont Blanc, at a height of 14,312 feet, was recently found to be badly in need of repair. The French Alpine Club were faced with heavy expenses if the repair materials were carried up the mountainside by men.

So it was decided to try dropping the materials from a plane near the lonely hut on the Bosses du Dromadaire, as the ridge is called.

This was successfully carried out not long ago.

CROSSING THE ATLANTIC

SOMETHING new in records was created recently by Captain "Buddy" Messenger, of British Overseas Airways Corporation. Captain Messenger recently completed his 250th crossing of the Atlantic—the first civilian pilot in the world to do so. Close behind him is Captain Allen, of Melbourne, who has 230 crossings to his credit.

More than twenty air-crew members of BOAC have completed 200 crossings or more, and another forty have more than 100 crossings entered in their log books.

PAKISTAN HAS HER OWN STAMPS

THE Dominion of Pakistan, which has been using the same postage stamps as the Dominion of India, now has her own stamps.

The stamps are of four categories—1½ Annas, 2½ As, 3 As, and 1 rupee. The 1½ As stamp has the picture of the Pakistan Dominion Parliamentary building in Karachi. The 2½ As stamp shows the Airport at



Karachi. The 3 As stamp, which we see here, has the picture of a fort in Lahore, Capital of Pakistan's largest and most important Province—the Punjab. This fort was built in AD 988 by a Moslem Conqueror from Persia, and has been enlarged at various periods by Moslem kings. The 1 rupee stamp has been designed by a Moslem artist from Lahore, who has combined the Islamic symbols of the Crescent and the Star, with the leaf pattern of the Syrenaic style.

Each of these stamps bears in Persian characters the words: "Pakistan Zindabad"—Long Live Pakistan.

A Giant of 700 Years Ago

IN 1721 the Revd Gilbert White, Vicar of Selborne in Hampshire and grandfather of the famous Gilbert White, the naturalist, discovered in Selborne church a tomb containing the skeleton of a man of exceptional size.

The tomb was then forgotten, but it was rediscovered quite recently in the course of alterations to the church and the bones of this huge man, together with those of another person, were reverently reinterred by the present Vicar.

It is believed that the giant was Sir Adam de Gurdon, who, in Simon de Montfort's rebellion, fought single-handed against Prince Edward, afterwards Edward I.

The Lost Gulls of Rat Island

THERE has been tragedy at the small island called Rat Island in the estuary of the River Colne near Brightlingsea. From ancient times seagulls in their thousands have flocked to this islet to breed every year; but this season about 50,000 of their eggs have been taken for sale to London hotels and restaurants.

Not long ago there were only about 13 eggs left on the whole island, with five birds sitting on them. Even these would have disappeared if the price of the eggs had not dropped.

The shame of it is that there is an Essex County Council by-law against disturbing these gulls' nests, but that has not deterred the raiders. Essex naturalists are afraid that this old seagulls' nursery will now cease to exist.

MUSEOGRAPHY

THIS unusual word means the study of everything to do with museums. A quarterly review of activities in this field has recently been published in English and French by Unesco. It is called Museums-Musées, and will deal with every kind of museum, from aquaria to zoological gardens, in all parts of the world. The first number coincided with the opening in Paris of the First Biennial Conference of the International Council of Museums.

HOMES ON WHEELS

MANY people find that the ideal holiday can be spent with a caravan, enabling them to "move" house" with each desire for a change of scenery.

The other day an exhibition of caravans, organised by the National Caravan Council, was held at the Royal Hospital Gardens, Chelsea. It was the most comprehensive exhibition of its kind ever to be held in Britain, for the council had gathered together, not only temporary homes but travelling dental clinics, cinemas, banks, post offices, kitchens, and canteens.

Today we think of a caravan as a house on wheels, but in ancient days a caravan was a company of traders or pilgrims journeying along a certain route, with camels, horses, asses, mules, yaks, reindeer, llamas, dogs, or even sheep as beasts of burden. Caravan companies used to travel together for the sake of security.

RECORD BREAKER

FOR the first time since 1939, when Miss Dorothy Odam held the high jump record, Britain possesses a world record in women's athletics.

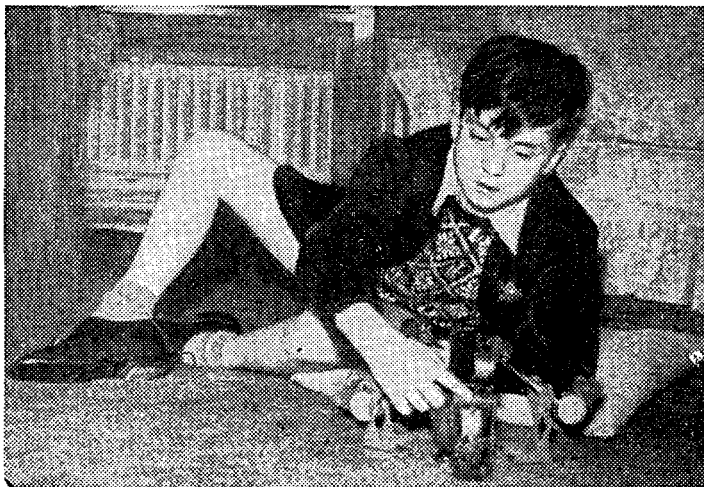
The new record-holder is 19-year-old Maureen Gardner, of Oxford, who clipped one-tenth of a second off the world record of 11.3 seconds for the 80 metres hurdles.

Miss Gardner's time was all the more remarkable as she had previously won the 100 yards and assisted in winning a relay race.

This Kind World

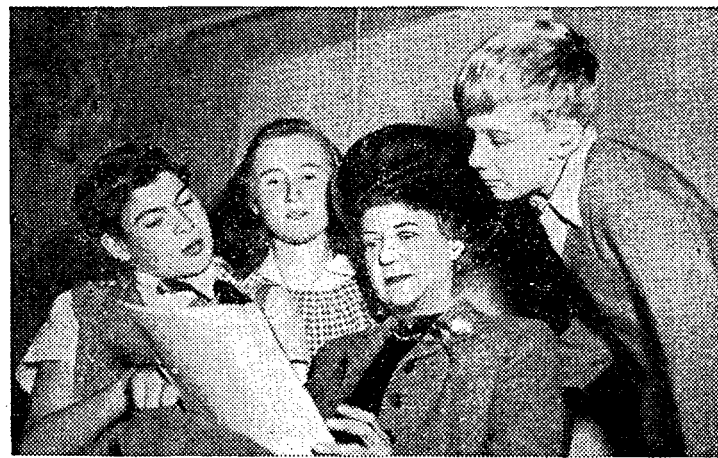
TWO girls who had come from Cornwall and arrived at Paddington Station, were due back at college by early afternoon. They were loaded with cases but no taxi was available, and there was no time to spare; so they went part-way by Tube and were beginning to toil up a long, steep hill when a workman came by. Taking pity, he offered to carry their luggage on his bicycle.

Just as the bicycle was being loaded, the man's employer appeared and asked what he was doing. Things looked awkward for a moment, but the employer was kind and understanding, and turning round, shouted for someone called Tom to bring the car. Up came the car, and the girls and their luggage were driven in royal style right to the college door—only five minutes late!



A Young Conductor Plays

Pierino Gamba, the ten-year-old conductor who attracted so much attention at the Harringay Music Festival, enjoys a game with his toys on the floor.



William and Friends

Just William returns to the air on July 20. Here is Richmal Crompton, writer of the stories, with David Spenser (William), Anthea Askey (Violet Elizabeth), and Derek Rock (Ginger.)

THE WEARING OF THE WIG

Wigs, it seems, may come back into fashion. Under the new National Health Act, a person suffering from baldness has the right to apply for a free wig. But not every man will thus get a wig just because he is bald. It appears that if a man's baldness is such as to be detrimental to his business or calling, then he qualifies for a wig at the national cost.

However, unless the Ministry of Health starts its own "national wig department" it may be very difficult to supply suitable coverings for the nation's bald patches, because wig-making is almost an extinct industry.

That, of course, was not so in the 18th century, when every man of rank wore a wig—the bigger the better. The best wigs then came from Paris, where there was a flourishing market in human hair. Dark hair made the best wigs, so the wig industry looked to the Latin countries for its main source of supply. Wigs of fair and flaxen hair did not stand up to the wear and tear demanded of them. Prices varied—aristocrats paid up to £100 for a first-class wig, and it is recorded by James Boswell how annoyed Dr. Johnson became one day when told that a certain English lord had paid an immense sum for the newest thing in wigs. The great doctor, being somewhat careless of his dress, wore wigs that cost a few pence.

The upkeep of a good wig was as much as its initial cost, for it had to be powdered, dressed, and perfumed—a skilful operation.

Today wigs are worn by the legal profession and certain officials. Apart from these any fresh demand will be for wigs that are strictly utilitarian, though more tidy, let us hope, than those worn by Dr. Johnson.

Friendship Hall

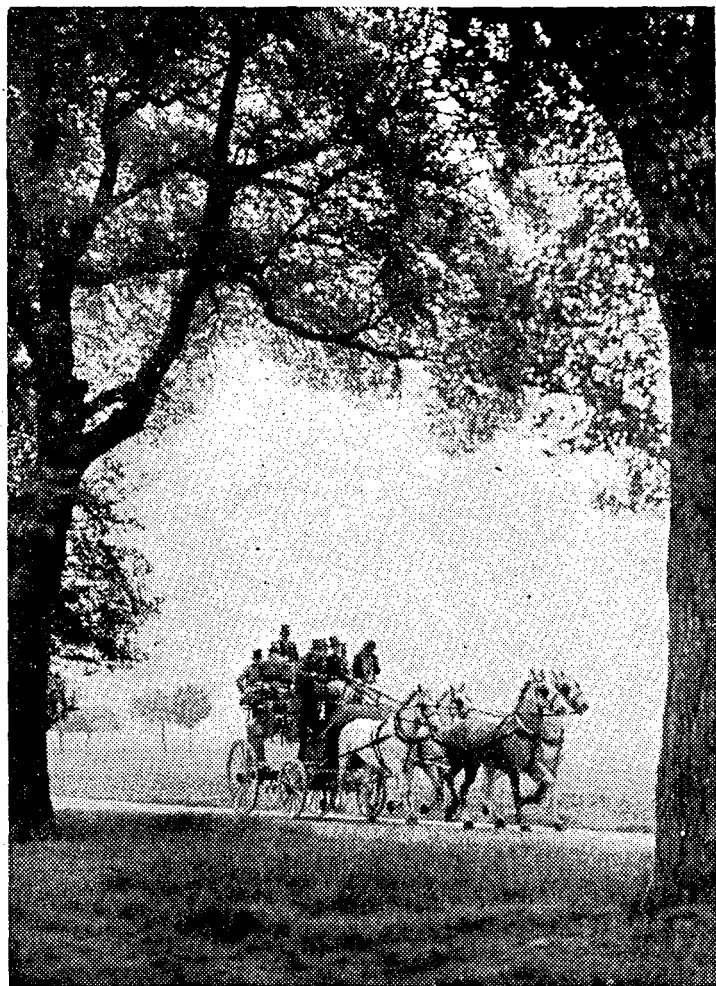
To commemorate the landing of American Forces in Ulster during the Second World War, a Hall of Friendship is to be built in Belfast. Altogether 300,000 American troops were welcomed in Ulster, the first contingent arriving in January 1942.

The Hall of Friendship is to be part of a war memorial building towards which the Ulster Government will contribute up to a maximum of £500,000 on the basis of a pound for every pound raised by the British Legion.

Royal Inspection



Queen Elizabeth inspects a machine at a model-aircraft competition at Langley, in Buckinghamshire, where she presented her own trophy.



A Ride in a Stage Coach

Like a peep into the past is this picture of a four-in-hand coach with top-hatted passengers passing through Richmond Park.

EXCHANGING NATURE'S RICHES

AMERICANS watch with friendly interest the progress of the great industry that is being promoted in Africa by the British Government in the production of ground-nuts—or monkey nuts, as British children call them. If asked where these nuts of a thousand uses came from originally, most people would say Africa or some other tropical land of the Old World. But the ground-nut, *arachis hypogaea*, which has a special name in each of the several countries where it has been acclimatised, is really a native of South America.

These nuts have a prominent place in that marvellous story of exchanges of natural products by which both the Old World and the New have enriched themselves; and these exchanges have led to such a world-wide distribution that it is difficult to say offhand to which hemisphere each product at first belonged.

Here, however, are some facts that will astonish many people.

In addition to the useful groundnut, South America gave the Old World potatoes, maize, chocolate, the cassava (with its arrowroot or tapioca), tobacco, ipecacuanha, and the indispensable quinine and rubber. It is difficult, indeed, to picture our dinner-tables, our medicine chests, or our commerce without these resources derived from South America.

But this transplanting of products from one part of the world to another, was not one-sided. The Old World made America a rich return. It gave the New World horses, donkeys, cattle, sheep, goats, pigs, poultry, pigeons, wheat, barley, oats, rice, olives, grapes, oranges, apples, pears, peaches, sugar-cane, and bananas. Blessed was the era that brought the Old World and the New into contact.

Tidal Model of the Firth of Forth

TIDAL models of estuaries which give information about the silting-up of shipping channels and the formation of sandbanks by tidal action are gradually being constructed and studied for all our important rivers where these problems arise.

The Severn, Mersey, and Dee models have been in existence for some years, and it has recently been disclosed that a model of the Firth of Forth was completed and put into operation at the National Physical Laboratory about a year ago.

The model is 80 feet long by 18 feet wide, and represents the river, at a scale of three feet to

a mile, from just below the Forth Bridge to Stirling, which is the farthest upstream point reached by the tide.

Tides are simulated by a system of plungers which alter the water level, and the tidal period between one high water and the next is five minutes, corresponding to 12.4 hours.

By working the model for several years according to the time scale, it is possible to study the accumulation of silt in the shipping channels leading to Rosyth Dockyard and, from the results, to plan the most economical future dredging operations.

The Editor's Table

POWER OF THE FAITH

DRAWN from the four quarters of the world, the bishops now in conference at Lambeth provide a timely reminder of a power rooted in spiritual affairs where man's life is seen at its best. At such a momentous hour in history as this the Lambeth Conference is also a witness to Christianity's dominion over large areas of the world and a tribute to the pioneer work of those who believed in the power of the faith in days long past.

SINCE Augustine and his companions came up the silver Stour to Canterbury fifteen hundred years ago the Anglican branch of the Christian faith has spread across the seas and the continents. A tiny seed sown in a small island has become a mighty tree of many branches, and the bishops have come home to their great mother in much the same spirit as that in which pilgrims visited the Eternal City of Rome in the great ages of faith.

SUCH is the power of the Christian faith that it claims its believers in every land and every language. It attracts men and women, old and young alike, because its claims are high, its commandments difficult to carry out. It is, in truth, a faith which has passed the commandment stage and walks in the pathways of love and friendship. On that foundation did Christ set up the standard of His Kingdom, believing that men would obey for love's sake rather than under the compulsion of authority.

So this great assembly of spiritual leaders draws the attention of the world once again to that Christian faith which is the divine plan for human living. These leaders are human like the rest of mankind, but they devote their lives to the understanding of the purposes of Almighty God, and their considered judgments will be earnestly awaited. Now is the time for the leaders to give that much-needed direction of faith to all peoples, to inspire in them fresh visions, and to restore their energy as a true family of God.

Leprosy Curable

MR GORDON RYRIE, Medical Secretary of the British Empire Leprosy Relief Association, speaking recently about the advances made in the use of the sulphone drugs in the treatment of leprosy, said: "It can now be stated that leprosy is often curable, but lack of doctors and funds presents at the moment an unsurmountable problem."

The problem will not continue unsurmountable if sympathisers throughout the Commonwealth help the Association, whose headquarters are at 167 Victoria Street, London, S W 1.

More School Books

A COMPLAINT of the shortage of paper for school books and exercise books was made recently by the Home and School Council of Great Britain to Mr John Belcher, Parliamentary Secretary, Board of Trade.

Mr Belcher replied that the allocation of paper to publishers was to be increased from 80 per cent of the amount used by them before the war to 85 per cent. But, he explained, shortage of paper was no longer the limiting factor in the production of books, but lack of labour and printing and binding capacity. To help to meet this shortage, he said, printing machines are being imported from the United States.

Lack of books not only interferes with our education, but causes endless difficulties for schoolboys and girls. Books have to be "shared," books are borrowed and not returned, they are lost or damaged, and sometimes the wrong people get the blame.

It is indeed good news that a start has been made to remedy this grievous state of affairs.

FAST SERVICE

THE dizzy pace at which some people live was demonstrated recently by a young American tennis star.

He sat for his law examination in San Francisco on a Thursday; flew to New York on Friday and played tennis there; flew to London on Saturday; played an exhibition game on Sunday; won a match on Wimbledon's Centre Court on Monday.

The "law's delays" have become a byword in this country, but there should be at least one American lawyer who cannot be accused of dilatoriness.

GOLDEN MEMORY

A MEMORY without blot or contamination must be an exquisite treasure—an inexhaustible source of pure refreshment.
Charlotte Brontë

Under the



PETER PUCK
WANTS TO KNOW

If detectives write
on tracing paper

AN old man says he collected many things in his youth. Now he recollects them.

A TEACHER recommends girls to go in for singing. Neighbours might complain if they started in the garden.

IN a certain school children do as they like for the first hour. Suppose they like to go home?

IN trains of the future there will be no draughts. But passengers can still play chess.

CHERRY pickers refuse to work on ladders in the wind. Comp down when the wind gets up.

THINGS SAID

No one should be in a political party unless he believes that party represents his own highest moral and religious ideals.

J. H. Wilson, M P

THE housewife has a real grievance. . . . No first-class business man would have retained content with workshops inadequately equipped, so badly planned, so wasteful of labour as we have been with the kitchens provided for women.

Minister of Works

THE chief hope for the preservation of the Christian values depends upon a revival of Christianity.

Archbishop of York

PEOPLE have been deluded by the idea that in some way or other Acts of Parliament can take the place of acts of human beings.

Oliver Stanley, M P

Home With Honours

LORD MOUNTBATTEN'S return home from India is a homecoming with honours. His attractive personality and impartial methods came into the life of India at a critical hour when civil war seemed inevitable.

To have averted that and to have set India and Pakistan on the road to self-government is an achievement with which Lord Mountbatten's name will ever be associated. He showed that a heart-hearted friendship for both parties and a will to resolve their deep-seated antagonisms were two sure ways of winning the respect of India's peoples.

The Indians gave him and his wife a send-off in which admiration and regret at his going were mixed—an experience which was unusual for an ex-Viceroy.

Lord Mountbatten has proved once again that personal gifts of heart and mind can triumph over the entangled problems of state and official policy.

JUST AN IDEA

As Dickens wrote, *Virtue's its own reward*; so's jollity.

Editor's Table

PEOPLE are advised to bolt their front door every night. They will get indigestion.

SOME people like to be different from others. Some are indifferent.

SECRET meetings by dentists about the National Health Act are reported. They will probably be drawn out.

GREAT space-saving in ships will follow from new ship-engine designs. There will be room for improvement.



WE see some queer fish in the shops now. And in the queues.

"Faithful in Difficulty"

IT seems strange that our present Army medical services are only 50 years old, and that the golden jubilee celebration of the Royal Army Medical Corps, at which the Queen was present, was held only the other day.

It can be said that it was Florence Nightingale who led the way to the establishment of this glorious Medical Corps. When she went to the Crimea there were no trained stretcher-bearers to pick up the wounded from the battlefield, no ambulances, no field hospitals, no hospital ships.

It was her agitation that led to the appointment of Lord Herbert's Commission in 1857 which brought about great improvements in the treatment of soldiers wounded in battle.

There was steady progress until the formation of the R A M C in 1898, an event which must have delighted Florence Nightingale in her old age.

Since then the R A M C have, in war and peace all over the world, lived up to their motto: In Arduis Fidelis, which means "Faithful in Difficulty."

JULY LORE

WHEN the moon is at the full, Mushrooms you must freely pull.

But when the moon is on the wane Wait before you pluck again.

WHEN anthills are unusually high in July, the coming winter will be hard and long.

JULY, God send thee calm and fayre, That happy harvest we may see, With quiet time and healthsome ayre, And we to God may thankful be.

WITH dew before midnight The next day will sure be bright.

Land of My Birth

THERE'S a magical tie to the land of our home, Which the heart cannot break, though the footstep may roam; Be that land where it may, at the Line or the Pole, It still holds the magnet that draws back the soul.

Tis loved by the freeman, tis loved by the slave, Tis dear to the coward, more dear to the brave! Ask of any the spot they like best on the earth, And they'll answer with pride, "Tis the land of my birth."

Oh, England! thy white cliffs are dearer to me Than all the famed coasts of a far foreign sea; What emerald can peer, or what sapphire can vie, With the grass of thy fields or thy summer-day sky? They tell me of regions where flowers are found, Whose perfume and tints spread a paradise round; But brighter to me cannot garland the earth Than those that spring forth in the land of my birth.

Eliza Cook

OUT OF SCHOOL HOURS

Grown-ups must at last admit that Fun is a powerful agent in the education of boys and girls, for this fact is made clear in a recent Report to the Government.

TO find out what the favourite occupations out of school hours are, the Central Advisory Council for Education recently sent questions to a number of schools. About 4000 replies from boys and girls showed that the majority of boys of all ages liked football best; there was even one girl who said she liked playing football better than anything else, while other girls like playing or watching it.

The Council sent out these questions as part of their investigation into the important question of whether schoolboys and girls have enough facilities for following their favourite sports and hobbies.

After football, cycling was shown to be popular among boys—especially those in towns.

The interests of the girls were more varied, and most of them said their favourite spare-time occupation was playing games somewhere out in the open—games such as tig, rounders, "hot-rice," "tippling over tails," hide and seek. Older girls preferred going to youth clubs, dancing, riding, and music.

Reading and Radio

Nearly all the 4000 like reading. Treasure Island was easily the most popular book with the boys, the girls preferring fairy and school stories. Oddly enough, very few said that going to the cinema was their favourite occupation, though nearly all of them went once a week.

Asked about their favourites on the wireless, many of the boys and girls replied that they liked the Children's Hour, especially the adventure plays; of the other programmes, the prime favourite was serial thrillers, with variety programmes next.

About half of the children questioned kept pets, and of these only half claimed to look after the pets themselves.

Many of those who belonged to youth clubs said it was their favourite activity.

Other favoured activities were cricket; walks in the country—climbing trees, and so on; fishing; swimming; indoor games such as playing at school or at giving concerts, or playing with Meccano; helping at home—washing-up, shopping, and so on; spare-time employment—newspaper or milk rounds, or farm work (the

last especially popular if one is allowed to drive the tractor).

Finally, there came the question of whether there was anything they did in school that they would like to do more of out of school. Many of the boys said they would like more football and physical training, and also more handicrafts such as woodwork, pottery, metal craft, and book-binding, and also more opportunity for painting and drawing. The girls, too, wanted more physical training and organised games, and next on their list came cooking, needlework, and knitting. Some boys and girls plumped for a school subject such as history or geography. Surprisingly, the younger children wanted to do more sums—but it was noticed that they lost this desire after the age of nine!

In their Report (Out of School, Stationery Office, 1s) the Council stress that to be able to go in for some healthy, self-chosen recreation is a vital part of our education. Unhappily, many boys and girls live in cramped homes with only a back yard or a crowded street to play in, and so have no facilities for taking up the sport or hobby of their choice. The Council therefore recommend, among other things, that the Minister of Education should make an urgent appeal to local education authorities to increase and improve by every possible means facilities for the play and recreation of children out of school hours.

French Without Tears

FRENCH classes will probably rise to the top of the school popularity poll if the plans of Mr Travis, senior language master at Gravesend County School, prove successful.

Mr Travis intends to teach French to fifth-form boys and girls by means of films, and he recently went to Paris where the first film is to be made. The "stars" of the film will be a 17-year-old French girl, who is a professional actress, and two brothers aged 13 and 14, who will deliver little stories in French. The film is intended for children who have had two or three years' French instruction, and is being supervised by the Ministry of Education.

Roses, Roses All the Way

THE "red, red rose, that's newly sprung in June," to which Robert Burns likened his sweetheart, was born this year in an untimely hour, for thunder-showers strewed its petals on the ground as soon as they appeared. So July now becomes the month of roses, and their beauty and profusion at the National Rose Society's summer show revealed that the modern roses can rise superior to anything our climate can do to them.

The roses filled both halls of the Horticultural Society in Vincent Square, Westminster, and it might have seemed that all the 16,000 rose-growers of the society were there to see them and smell them.

The Hybrid Teas

Among the exhibits the red, red rose itself was one of the gallant survivors. It was represented by Red Ember, a hybrid tea rose, scarlet with relief of yellow, most sweetly scented and a prizewinner. Another prize-winning hybrid tea was a dull crimson old-fashioned rose, Florence Mary Morse. Other representatives of the hybrid teas were Marcella Gret from France, a sumptuous yellow bloom; Dilys Allen, a brilliant orange, and Eunice Wright, an "improved" orange with more petals. Most of the favourites bore ladies' names.

This was less marked in the increasingly popular class of Polyantha roses, where Pirbright, a bright pink, and McGredy Sunset, a yellow, scarlet veined, which promises quite a number of "sports" as its offspring, was greatly approved by the breeders. But among the hybrid polyantha roses, in bloom right up to Christmas, were several members of the Poulsen family—Karen, Kirsten, and Else Poulsen. There remains to be added that the number of varieties of the rose has now mounted to thousands, almost a variety for every one of the Society's 16,000 members.

UNFINISHED TESTS

MANCHESTER'S Old Trafford, where the third Test Match begins on Thursday, seems destined to produce unfinished matches. Of the 16 Tests played there between England and Australia since 1884 nine have been drawn and two abandoned. Since 1905 not one England-Australia Test has been completed on this ground.



THIS ENGLAND

Vincent Square, London, was recently reopened as Westminster School's cricket ground, and here we see a game in progress

On the Wing to Alaska

WE are all familiar with the comings and goings of the birds on their annual migrations.

But there is an aspect of migration of which few but scientists ever hear, and that is the migration of insects. Regular seasonal journeys from territory to territory are common to certain species of butterflies, locusts, dragonflies, and beetles. It has been found that great insect migrations take place in definite directions, and are independent of the course of the wind.

Every year naturalists come upon Painted Lady butterflies, which, arriving here in spring, a little frayed and tattered, are known to have flown from North Africa. But what is to be said of the achievement of the butterfly known as the American Monarch?

This astounding insect has recently arrived in its far northern summer home in Alaska, just as our winter bird migrants pass the summer within the Arctic Circle. As summer wanes the American Monarch butterflies seem to turn about and fly right down to the Southern States of America and on to Mexico. There, in the same group of trees, they pass the winter, not completely hibernating, but for long spells so deeply asleep and insensible as to resemble our bats in winter.

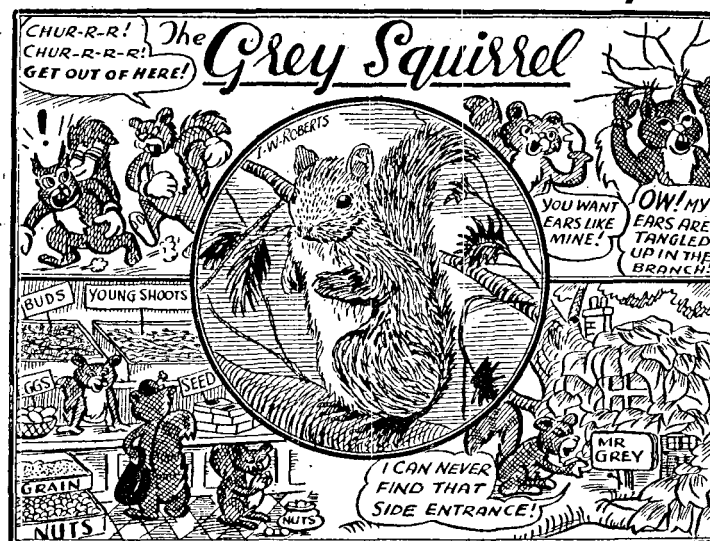
Finding the Way

A puzzling fact about these migrations is that the life of an insect is so short that it seems almost impossible for the majority of such aerial voyagers to learn the route from their ancestors. The American Monarch butterflies that have flown to far Alaska may not be the ones by which the return flight will be made; it is possible that they may die, and that the return journey will be made by their offspring.

The Painted Lady butterflies that swarm north in millions every year never return; their traffic is all one way. But in the case of the American Monarch, whatever the generation, its migrations north are followed by migrations south.

Laugh While You Learn—Nature Study Made Easy

GREY SQUIRRELS are natives of America, but in recent years they have multiplied and spread throughout our countryside. They have become a menace and a source of worry to the farmer, feeding on young shoots, eating eggs, biting large holes in fruit trees, and so on. Nevertheless, the Grey Squirrel makes a fascinating study when seen in parks or woodlands, sitting on its haunches with food held tightly



in its fore paws, or running along the branch of a tree. The angry and indignant "churr-r-r" is a warning to our native Red Squirrel to keep away. As its name suggests its fur is grey, and the ears are tufted. It does not normally hibernate, but may have a long sleep during very cold weather. The nest, usually in a deciduous tree, is a dome-shaped structure, with a hidden side entrance, and is made from leaf-bearing twigs.

The Tempting Telegraph Pole

WE have often heard that the reason why the owl 'owled' was because the woodpecker would peck 'er; but it seems that the reverse may be true, that the woodpecker pecked the owl because she persisted in 'owling. For that is the reason, say the G.P.O., why woodpeckers peck telegraph poles; it is because the pole's wires will hum.

"The humming sound attracts the woodpeckers, who—somewhat unfairly—go for the poles, often pecking holes in them five inches deep. But once the wires stop that irritating humming, the woodpeckers leave the poles alone.

So Post Office engineers silence the wires by putting a lead-strip round the insulators and for ten inches along the wires.

Ornithologists have been puzzled as to why humming telegraph wires should attract woodpeckers. In a letter to *The Times* a writer suggests that the woodpeckers mistake the humming of the wires for that of bees, and think there must be a colony of wild bees inside the telegraph pole, for it is true that these birds often attack the walls of bee hives.

Overseas Problems

Though our P.O. engineers have solved their problem, the guardians of such poles overseas have had problems not so readily solved.

In Persia the route of the Indo-European telegraph had to be patrolled from end to end because wandering tribesmen carried off the poles to form supports for their tents, and the telegraph wires to serve as bullets. In Africa the task of guarding the poles has been more varied in character. Where white ants lived along the route, wooden poles simply provided them with meals, and iron standards had to be substituted.

Elephants, too, in sheer playful delight, knock down a row of poles; giraffes break the wires, which entangle their towering necks and heads; and monkeys use the wires as a trapeze for their daily dozen.

FRENCH MASTER OF ROMANTIC PROSE

FRANCOIS AUGUSTE DE CHATEAUBRIAND, one of the greatest names in French literature, passed to his last rest on July 4, just a century ago.

Pioneer of the tales of chivalrous romance which our own Walter Scott brought to such perfection a few years later, he was born at St Malo in 1768 of a noble Breton family, and after a dreamy boyhood entered the army and was received at Court in the declining days of the monarchy.

An eye-witness of the opening scenes of the Revolution, and disgusted at its wild excesses, he journeyed to America. There he

met Washington, travelled among the Red Indian tribes, and finally returned to Europe after the flight of the King and joined the "Emigrants" on the Rhine.

Left for dead in a skirmish near Namur, wounded, sick and penniless, Chateaubriand escaped to England, and from 1793 to 1800 maintained himself in London by teaching and translating. It was in this country that he began the *Génie du Christianisme*, a vindication of the Church of Rome, which appeared in 1802, after his return to his native land. This work, with its rich imagination and its eloquent pathos, raised

its author to fame and influence. In 1803 he received an appointment in the Embassy at Rome.

Soon afterwards he quarrelled with the Napoleon Government, and, resigning his appointment, travelled in Greece, Palestine, Asia Minor, and Spain, returning to France in 1807.

After the Royalist restoration, Chateaubriand again took office. He was created a peer of France, became a minister, and from 1822-24 was ambassador-extraordinary at the British Court.

He lived long enough to see the barricades which heralded the second republic, and was buried at St Malo, his birthplace, with-in sound of the Atlantic waves.

Of his two novels, *René* and *Le Dernier des Abencerrages*, the latter is a small but perfect gem of historical romance. His *Martyrs*, a prose epic of Diocletian's persecutions, presents a wonderful picture of religious heroism, and his autobiographical *Mémoires d'outre Tombe* reveal him as a master of prose.

Styled the Father of Romanticism, Chateaubriand was prone to flights of false sentiment and extravagant language, but at his best his brilliance is an unflinching delight to the reader.

Your Portrait on Your Dress

THE time may come when every boy will have his photograph printed on his shirt, and every girl hers on her dress, if only for ease in identification in the laundry!

It is now possible to "print" photographs on any ordinary dress of white or pale shade of silk, cotton, nylon, or linen, and to wash the garments as often as necessary without the pictures disappearing. By a new American process ordinary photographs can be transferred, and

this should provide scope for new designs of a personal nature.

It entails attaching transparencies of the scene to the glass rollers of a new sort of "press." The cloth is dipped in light-sensitive dyes, and then run through the "press." Mercury vapour lamps inside the glass rollers transmit the image to the cloth as it travels through, and the cloth is then developed, fixed, rinsed, and washed in the same way as an ordinary photograph, before being dried.

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM—Picture Version of Shakespeare's Droll Comedy



The Duke of Athens said that Lysander should marry Hermia, and Demetrius should marry Helena. The happy lovers departed for Athens. Then Bottom awoke, full of wonder at his strange "dream." He also hurried to Athens to find Quince the carpenter and the other simple fellows who wanted to act, before the Duke, a play: "The most lamentable comedy, and most cruel death of Pyramus and Thisbe."



Wearing their costumes, the "actors" presented themselves to the Master of the Revels at the palace. Bottom was Pyramus; Flute, the bellows-mender, was Thisbe; Snout, the tinker, represented a wall; Snug, the joiner, a lion; Starveling, the tailor, with a lantern, was the Moon. They said their play was: "A tedious brief scene of young Pyramus, And his love Thisbe; very tragical mirth."



The Master of the Revels told the Duke that some "Hard-handed men, that work in Athens here, Which never laboured in their minds till now," wanted to act a play; but he feared it was a very amateurish business. "I will hear that play," replied the Duke. "For never anything can be amiss when simpleness and duty tender it." The players were invited to enter. Their quaint costume caused mirth.



Bottom explained that the play was about two lovers, Pyramus and Thisbe, who had agreed to meet secretly. Thisbe reached the meeting-place first and, scared by a lion, fled, leaving her mantle. The lion soiled the mantle with his blood-stained mouth, and when Pyramus came he thought Thisbe dead: "Whereat with bloody blameful blade, he bravely broached his boiling bloody breast."

See Next Week's Instalment For More of Bottom and His Company of Amateur Actors

The Children's Newspaper, July 10, 1948

Planets in the Morning Sky

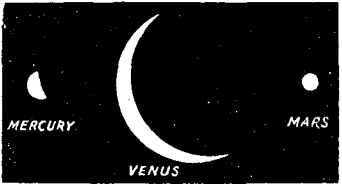
By the C N Astronomer

VENUS has now reappeared in the early morning sky and is accompanied by Mercury. At present they are not very far above the horizon before the dawn obscures them, but about the middle of the month both Mercury and Venus will have become better placed for observation. There will be no mistaking the brilliant Venus, which may be looked for in the east soon after 3.30 a.m. and will remain visible almost until 5 o'clock.

Mercury will be found a little way to the left of Venus at almost the same altitude, though Mercury rises a little later, and during the next two weeks will appear to travel away to the left and nearer to the Sun, until lost in the solar radiance.

No more will be seen of Mercury after the next fortnight, for Mercury is the fleetest of the planets and speeds round the Sun, on an average, half as fast again as Venus. Being now near perihelion (his nearest point to the Sun) his speed is about 33 miles a second, whereas that of Venus is about 22 miles a second, and that of the Earth is only 18½ miles a second on an average.

More of the sunlit surface of Venus will be presented to us



during the next few weeks, so she will rapidly increase in brilliance though actually receding. By the end of July, Venus will be at her greatest brilliancy, mounting higher in the sky which she will adorn in the south-east until next year. All the while she will become smaller and rounder, until she has reached far beyond and behind the Sun. Venus will then reach *superior conjunction* with the Sun, and will be at her farthest, from us—about 160 million miles away. She is now but 31 million miles distant.

Mercury, however, is 85 million miles away, and he too is rapidly receding, and at a greater rate, toward *superior conjunction* with the Sun. At present Mercury appears like a tiny Moon at last-quarter phase, as shown in the picture, which also presents Venus on the same scale, as seen telescopically. Mercury and Venus are worlds totally different in character, Mercury rather resembling our Moon but with a much cracked and scarred surface, with a low *albedo* or light-reflecting quality on its ever-sunlit side. Mercury, moreover, is only about half as wide again as our Moon, which also has a low *albedo*.

Venus, with a diameter of 7600 miles, is almost as large as the Earth and appears to resemble our world in many ways. Possessing a dense atmosphere and being largely covered with clouds, Venus has a high *albedo* somewhat greater even than that of the Earth.

Mars will soon be leaving the evening sky, for he also is receding and is now about 155 million miles away. He may now be found during the evening twilight rather low in the west. On July 11 Mars will appear a little way below and to the right of the crescent Moon G. F. M.

SCIENCE AND THE OLYMPICS

QUICKER, Higher, Stronger—or, as it appears in Latin, *Citius, Altius, Fortius*—is the motto of the Olympic Games. Britain is calling science to her aid to ensure that the four or five thousand competitors now assembling here will be able to live up to it during the great Sports Fortnight beginning on July 29.

First there is the running track itself. Where a fraction of a second means success or failure, the condition of the track is all-important. So the track at the Empire Stadium, Wembley, though its 25-year-old foundations are still sound, is being specially prepared for firmness and speed. Sprinters will also be able to use starting-blocks of a new pattern, invented by a Cambridge professor.

For the 400 metres, which is run in concentric lanes, the new "remote control" starting gun will be used. The starter will stand where he can best watch the start, and he will fire electrically a gun fixed at another point the same distance from each competitor. Thus, the speed of sound will neither help nor hinder the runners.

The latest "photo-finish" camera will be used. Once set in position, this must not be moved even a fraction of an inch, so all track events will finish on the same line. This wonderful camera can produce a print, showing the order of finishing of any number of competitors, in ninety seconds! The camera's "eye" peers through a slit just covering the finishing line, and successive runners are "snapped" on a moving film. Bars appearing on the film are caused by a beacon flashing at regular intervals across the Stadium.

Four hand stop-watches, set to a tenth of a second, will help the camera. Started electrically when

the pistol is fired, they will be stopped by the winner himself. As he crosses the line, the "eye" of a photo-electric cell will intercept him.

In all, the judges will use some 180 stop-watches, chronographs, and stop-go clocks, the latter being used for events like boxing and wrestling, where "time out" is added to the fixed period of contest.

Professor Rottenburg, who invented the starting blocks, has also invented a time-saving device for the long jump. This not only measures the jump instantly and accurately, but also smooths the sand in the pit.

One of the cleverest devices is the electrical épée-judging apparatus. With this a hit of a certain required pressure automatically makes contact with an electric circuit, causing a light to shine and a bell to ring on a box some distance from the fencers. The point of each épée is actually connected by wire—along a groove in the blade, by way of the fencer's clothing and along the ground—to the box.

One of the most thrilling things about the Games is the Olympic Flame itself, the symbolic torch borne to this country by runners. Here again science stepped in. The scientists sought a luminous, golden, smokeless, odourless flame which neither wind nor rain could quench during the weeks of its use. They found it at last—in the modern gas known as butane.

Old Books Make a Flying Visit

SOME rare old foreign manuscripts and printed books have been flown to New York to be placed on view there before being brought back to London for sale at Sotheby's on July 12 and 13. This is the first time Sotheby's, which was founded in 1744, have sent valuable books by air.

These treasures came from the renowned library formed at Florence by Baron Horace de Landau in the latter part of the last century.

The Americans must have been particularly interested to see among them four little pamphlets printed about 1505 and describing the third voyage of the man who gave his name to their country, Amerigo Vespucci. Amerigo was a Florentine merchant and adventurer who was believed to have discovered the

mainland of America before Columbus and Cabot.

Another treasure in the collection to be sold next week is a copy of the first dated Bible, printed at Mainz in 1462. Older still is a little psalter which was written about 1340 for Bonne of Luxembourg, daughter of the blind King of Bohemia who was killed at Crecy, and wife of the King John of France who was captured at Poitiers. Her little psalter is the most beautiful manuscript seen at Sotheby's for many years.

Among the other rare books to be sold is a set of the first four Shakespeare folios—somewhat unexpected in an Italian library.

What a splendid thing it would be if these treasures could be bought for our national museums and public libraries.

THE QUEST OF THE BIRD MEN

THE triumph of the American naturalists who went to Alaska and found the nesting-place of the bristle-thighed curlew, as told in last week's C N, reminds a correspondent of a somewhat similar quest which took place at the opposite end of the world—in the Antarctic.

Of all the stories of daring and suffering endured in the pursuit of knowledge of this character (he writes) that of Dr Edward Adrian Wilson, the scientist of Captain Scott's Antarctic expedition, is the most thrilling and wonderful. Dr Wilson sought knowledge of the nursery habits of the Emperor penguin, which has the unique habit of producing its single egg on the ice in the depth of the

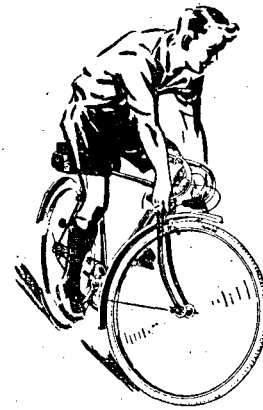
pitiless winter, during the black night that lasts from autumn till spring. So, with two companions, he undertook a winter journey to Cape Crozier and back, lasting five bitter weeks.

They found the penguins brooding their eggs in darkness on the ice, but before the task of the visitors was ended a great blizzard blew, carrying away their tent, with all that it contained. For 48 hours they were foodless and without shelter, in over 100 degrees of frost. The icy tempest at last abating, they followed the direction of the wind, recovered their tent, and returned to base, frost-bitten and half starved, but radiantly happy in possessing five eggs, with Emperor penguin chicks in them.



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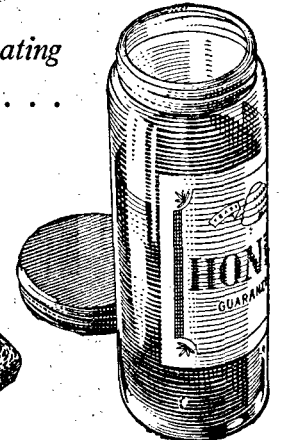
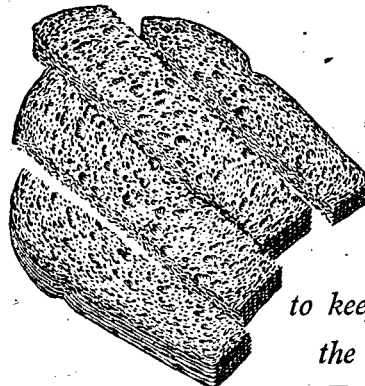
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H11

THE BRAN TUB

PICNIC PLEASURES

THE picnic had not long been in progress.

"Isn't this an ideal spot for a picnic?" ventured Mother as she gazed at the scenery.

"It must be," replied Father, smiting the air as he spoke. "Ten thousand wasps can't possibly be wrong."

What Your Name Means

Hilda ... battle maid
Hugh ... mind
Humphrey ... support of peace
Ida ... perfect happiness

UNPLACED

JOHN and Dick ran a three-legged race, Starting off at a galloping pace. But their bandage they tore, And three legs became four, So the judge could not give them a place

Pithy Proverb

WE always like those who admire us; we do not always like those whom we admire.

DRINKING THE WATER

HERE is a little catch that may trap many of your friends.

Put a glass of water on the table and cover it with a hat. Then say you will drink the water without removing the hat. When challenged, put your head under the table and make a gurgling noise. Someone is sure to lift the hat to see if the water has gone, whereupon you lift the glass and drink the water. You have obviously drunk it without lifting the hat.

BEDTIME CORNER

THE STOWAWAY

AMONG the first things that Audrey saw at her uncle's house in the country was a litter of six-week-old puppies. She promptly fell in love with them, particularly with a little fellow with a white circle round one eye.

"Ooh, Daddie!" she cried. "Can I have one? I know Uncle wants to sell them."

"No, dear," said Daddie. "He wouldn't get enough exercise in a town, and—"

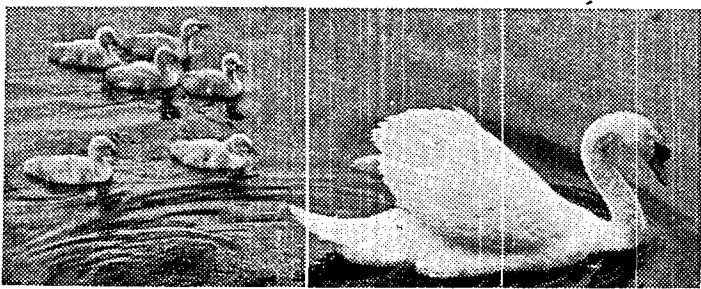
The week-end quickly passed and it was time for Audrey and her parents to go. The puppies scrambled round their feet as Daddie stowed the luggage in the back of the car. Audrey waved good-bye, and they set off.

They had only gone about five miles when they heard a strange noise.

"What can that be?" queried Mummie.

Daddie got out and found

AN OUTING WITH MOTHER



Jacko and Chimp Spend a Quiet Week-End



Jack and Chimp found a quiet place to sleep during their camping week-end.



That is, they thought it was quiet—until the "ghosts began walking."



But they looked foolish when the farmer told them what the ghosts were.

FARMER GRAY EXPLAINS

Timid Roe-deer. As Don penetrated deeper into the woods the undergrowth became thicker. Giant fronds of bracken shut out the view. Suddenly something started up almost from beneath the boy's feet. Don caught a glimpse of a dainty rust-coloured deer as it bounded over a small bush and vanished from sight.

"It was probably a roe-deer," said Farmer Gray, hearing Don's story. "They are the smallest and most timid of our three British species of deer, and are seldom seen. From May to October a roe-deer's coat is of a russet hue; for the rest of the year it is a greyish brown."

WELL, WELL!

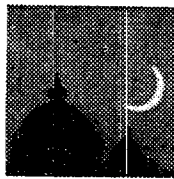
THE political candidate waxed enthusiastic.

"I always throw myself into anything I undertake!" he shouted.

"Then why not dig a well?" came a voice from the gallery.

Other Worlds

IN the evening Mars is low in the west, and Jupiter is low in the south-east. In the early morning sky Mercury and Venus are visible. The picture shows the Moon at 7 o'clock on Thursday evening, July 8.



A GAME FOR THE BEACH

HERE is an exciting game for the beach that any number can play.

Each player except one makes in the sand a circle in which he is to stand. These are called homes and should be arranged in a circle. The other player must stand in the middle of the group with a soft ball. Those in the circles must now try to change places without being seen by the player in the centre. If he sees one out of his circle he throws the ball at him. If the player is hit then he goes to the centre and the game goes on.

Each circle should be large enough for the boy or girl to stand in without touching the edge.

Children's Hour

BBC Programmes from Wednesday, July 7, to Tuesday, July 13.

WEDNESDAY, 5.0 Shadow of the Wolf Pack. 5.15 A Norman and Henry Bones Story. North, 5.0 Nursery Sing Song. West, 5.15 Folk Songs of All Nations.

THURSDAY, 5.0 Motor Boat Racing. 5.25 The Railway Children (4). Midland, 5.25 Vernon Adcock and his Light Orchestra; Using Your Nose—a talk. North, 5.0 The Brydons' Day of Surprises. Welsh, 5.30 Sian and the Chalk—a story; Boxing on Three Continents.

FRIDAY, 5.0 The Ready-Made Aunt. 5.15 Regional Round. North, 5.0 A talk; Piano, Violin, Saxophone, and Xylophone; Railway Bureau; Belle Vue Zoo Artists.

SATURDAY, 5.0 Variety. Midland, 5.0 The Adventures of Twink—a story; The Sheringham Junior Band.

SUNDAY, 5.0 Windermere to Coniston—a talk.

MONDAY, 5.0 The Three Mulla Mulgars (Part 2). 5.20 The Plungo—a story. 5.35 Music at Random. North, 5.0 Wandering with Nomad; Music; Sports Talk. West, 5.35 The Ballet of the Bees (2).

TUESDAY, 5.0 The Family from One End Street (Part 6). 5.15 Swiss Folk Music. 5.40 Outdoor Sketching. N. Ireland, 5.0 Puddy and Bunch; A story; Background to Books—Knights—a talk; A story; Songs. North, 5.0 Nursery Sing Song; Story; The Test Match; Children of Other Lands. Scottish, 5.0 West of Loch Earn; Scots Songs. West, 5.40 The Henley Royal Regatta.

Puzzle Sentence

WHAT does this mean?: TUC Co. *After let you see comic company*

HOW INDEED?

SHE: Mrs Jones has a very bad habit.

He: What's that?

She: She turns round and looks back every time we have met.

He: How do you know?

Tongue Twister

FINDING Frank fanning the fire Felix fiercely flailed the flickering flame.

LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS

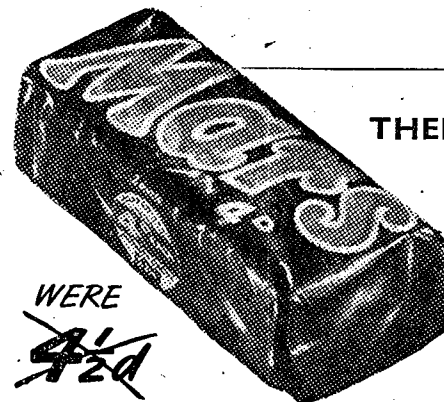
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